

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An offshore installation for transferring a liquefied gas, ~~especially liquefied natural gas, of the type that includes~~ installation comprises:

a first tank (18) and ~~a second tank for is designed to transfer of~~ liquefied gas from the first tank (18) to ~~[[a]] the second tank[[,]] which is a~~ the second tank (6) is on the a surface and not submerged in water, furthermore comprising

a transfer line (28) ~~suitable for being connected~~ connectable to first and second said tanks (6, 18), the first and second ~~two~~ tanks being far apart during transfer of the liquefied gas, the transfer line (28) being submerged in the water[[,]]; ~~characterized in that the installation comprises~~

a first terminal (8) carrying the first tank (18) and a second terminal (22), ~~especially a loading buoy, which is far apart from said the first terminal (8), in that the transfer line (28) extends between the two~~ first and second terminals (8, 22), ~~in that the first tank is a tank (18) on the surface[[,]]; in that~~

the transfer line (28) comprises a substantially horizontal rigid main section (32) located in a region of the water layer in which the dynamic forces are low the main section having ends;

~~and~~ substantially vertical flexible sections (30, 34) which link the ends of the main section (32) to the first and second terminals ~~for~~ (18, 22) ~~and ensure~~ continuity of liquid gas transport and take up of the dynamic forces, ~~in that~~

the main section (32) and the flexible sections (30, 34) comprise an internal transport hose for transfer of the liquefied gas (40, 42, 68) and an external jacket around the transport hose (36, 38, 66) which define an annular space between the hose and the jacket and that (44, 46, 49), ~~in that the annular space (44, 46, 69) extends over the entire length of the transfer line (28),~~

thermal insulation in that the annular space (44, 46, 69) is for thermally insulated insulating the space by thermal insulation means; and a filling device in that it furthermore includes means for filling the annular space (44, 46, 69) with inert gas[[,]] especially nitrogen.

2. (Currently Amended) The installation as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the rigid main section (32) comprises a bundle of parallel hoses ~~placed parallel to one another~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The installation as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the bundle of hoses includes a return hose for returning return flow of the gas in the gaseous state[[,]] ~~which will flow from said the~~ second tank (6) back to ~~said the~~ first tank (18).

4. (Currently Amended) The installation as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3,~~ characterized in that it includes claim 1, further comprising a verification device means (90, 92) designed operable to check the sealing of at least one of the jacket (36, 38, 66) ~~and/or~~ and the hose (40, 42, 68).

5. (Currently Amended) The installation as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the verification ~~means comprise~~ device comprises a sensor (90) suitable operable for detecting ~~the~~ a pressure variation within the annular space (44, 46, 69) and suitable operable for delivering a warning signal when ~~the a~~ pressure variation in the space lies about a predetermined value.

6. (Currently Amended) The installation as claimed in claim 4, ~~wherein or 5,~~ characterized in that the verification device comprises ~~means comprise~~ a sensor suitable operable for detecting the presence in the annular space (44, 46, 69) of at least one of the components of the liquefied gas that is ~~has to be~~ conveyed by the hose (40, 42, 68), ~~especially CH₄, or designed to detect~~ and the amount of inert gas in the annular space (44, 46, 69).

7. (Currently Amended) The installation as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 6,~~ characterized in that claim 1, wherein the rigid main section (32) is adapted to be used in and to be located in a region of the water layer in which the maximum speed of the water current is below 1 m/s, ~~preferably below 0.5 m/s~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The installation as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 7,~~ characterized in that said claim 1, wherein the first and the said second tanks (6, 18) are spaced apart by a distance greater than 300 meters and preferably of the order of 1 nautical mile during transfer of the liquefied gas.

9. (Currently Amended) The installation as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~ characterized in that said claim 1, wherein the second terminal (22) is designed to link links the transfer line (28) to a loading hose (24) equipped with means (25) for connection to the second tank (6) which is carried by a ship.

10. (Currently Amended) The installation as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~ characterized in that claim 1, further comprising an evacuation device connected to the annular space, (44, 46, 69) is connected to the evacuation means (86) device being operable designed to keep this the space (44, 46, 69) at a pressure below atmospheric pressure, especially at a pressure below 100 mbar and in particular at a pressure of approximately 30 mbar.

11. (Currently Amended) The installation as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~ characterized in that claim 1, wherein the internal hose (68) of the main section (32) comprises a rigid metal part (74), which includes, having ends and a compensating bellows at at least one of its the ends, a compensating bellows (76, 78), and in that the bellows permitting variation in length permitted by the bellows (76, 78) is of at least the a variation in length of the rigid metal part (74) under a variation in temperature between the water temperature at the rigid part and the temperature of the liquefied gas in the rigid part.

12. (Currently Amended) The installation as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~ characterized in that claim 1, further comprising a balancing body from which the rigid main section

(32) is suspended from ~~a~~ and the balancing body (94) that is ~~designed~~ operable to provide it the main section with buoyancy or with ballast.

13. (Currently Amended) The installation as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the rigid main section (32) is suspended from the first and second ~~two~~ terminals (8, 22) ~~or anchored on the seabed by a mooring line.~~

14. (Canceled)

15. (New) The installation of claim 1, wherein the second terminal is a loading buoy.

16. (New) The installation of claim 8, wherein the first and second tanks are spaced apart by a distance of the order of one nautical mile.

17. (New) The installation of claim 10, wherein the pressure is below 100 mbar.

18. (New) The installation of claim 10, wherein the pressure is approximately 30 mbar.

19. (New) The installation of claim 1, wherein the rigid main section is anchored on the seabed by a mooring line.